

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. New claims 8 and 9 were added. Therefore, claims 4-9 remain pending.

Allowable Claims

Claims 4 and 5 were deemed allowable and have been rewritten into independent form by this Amendment. Claims 1, 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over **Shinohara et al.** (JP 03-077324). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over **Shinohara**. However, these rejections are moot since claims 1 and 3 were cancelled, and claims 6 and 7 now depend from allowable claim 4. Therefore, the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed July 16, 2003

The Office Action did not address the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 16, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to return a signed Form PTO-1449 for the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 16, 2003 (copy attached).

U.S. Serial No. 10/090,610
Attorney's Docket No. 020124

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Copy of Information Disclosure Statement filed July 16, 2003.